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Finding Aid for the Peter H. Taylor Collection (MUM00442)

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Finding Aid for the Peter H. Taylor Collection (MUM00442)

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The Peter H. Taylor Collection is open for research. The audiovisual portion of this collection is stored at an off-site facility. Researchers interested in using this part of the collection must contact Archives and Special Collections at least two business days in advance of their planned visit.

Finding Aid for the Peter H. Taylor Collection

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Descriptive Summary

Title:	Peter H. Taylor Collection
Dates:	1943-1995
Collector:	McAlexander, Hubert Horton
Physical Extent:	24 boxes (12.0 linear feet)
Repository:	University of Mississippi. Department of Archives and Special Collections. University, MS 38677, USA
Identification:	MUM00442
Location:	General Special Collections; Visual Collections
Language of Material:	English
Abstract:	The collection contains papers, photographs, and audio recordings related to the life and work of author Peter H. Taylor.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Received from Hubert H. McAlexander, 2005

Processing Information

Collection processed by Audrey M. Uffner, April 2009. Finding aid encoded by Kathryn Michaelis, January 2012.

Additions

No further additions are expected to this collection.

Subject Terms

Taylor, Peter, 1917-1994
Taylor, Eleanor Ross, 1920-2011
McAlexander, Hubert Horton
Authors, American -- 20th century -- Biography
Tennessee -- Fiction

Formats

correspondence
research notes
clippings (information artifacts)
photographs
audiocassettes

Biographical Note

Peter H. Taylor was born in Trenton, Tennessee, on January 8, 1917. He attended Southwestern University and Vanderbilt University. He entered Kenyon College in 1938 to study under John Crowe Ransom, graduating in 1940. After briefly enrolling in the Louisiana State University for graduate work under Robert Penn Warren and Cleanth Brooks, he entered the U.S. Army in 1941. He served stateside at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, and overseas at Tidworth Camp in England before being discharged from the Army in 1945.

Taylor married poet Eleanor Ross in 1943. The couple's first child Katherine Baird Taylor was born in 1948, and their son, Peter Ross Taylor, was born in 1955.

Beginning his teaching career at the Women's College of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 1946, he served a year as assistant professor at Indiana University in 1948 before returning to Greensboro in 1949. In 1952, he taught at the University of Chicago in the spring and began an associate professorship at Kenyon College in the fall. In 1957 he also served as an associate professor at the Ohio State University, and in 1963, he rejoined the University of North Carolina. In 1964 and 1968, he served as a visiting professor at Harvard in the fall semesters. He became a Professor of English at the University of Virginia in 1967 and retired from the university in 1983.

His book publications include: *A Long Fourth* (1948); *A Woman of Means* (1950); *The Widows of Thornton* (1954); *Happy Families Are All Alike* (1959); *Miss Leonora When Last Seen* (1964); *Randall Jarrell, 1914-1965* (co-editor 1967); *A Stand in the Mountains* (1968); *Collected Stories* (1969); *Presences: Seven Dramatic Pieces*

(1973); *In the Miro District* (1977); *The Old Forest* (1985); and *A Summons to Memphis* (1986).

Taylor received the Pulitzer Prize for *A Summons to Memphis* (1987) as well as the O. Henry first prize (1959), Gold Medal for Literature of the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters (1978), a Senior Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities (1984), the PEN/Faulkner Award (1986) and the Ritz Hemingway Prize for fiction (1987). Over the course of his career he also received a Guggenheim Fellowship (1950-1) a Fulbright grant, Ford Foundation Fellowship at London's Royal Court Theatre (1960-1), and a Rockefeller Foundation grant (1966).

Scope and Content Note

The Peter H. Taylor Collection is a gift from Hubert H. McAlexander, who authored a book on Taylor's life. The collection closely mirrors the format of the book, but also includes material that McAlexander chose to cut from the final project. Materials found in the collection include personal correspondence between McAlexander and Eleanor Ross Taylor and personal friends of Taylor, research notes and photocopied materials from various holdings of Peter Taylor material, and newspaper clippings/reviews concerning Peter Taylor's life and work. Also included are photographs and oral histories on cassette tapes.

User Information

Preferred Citation

Peter H. Taylor Collection, Archives and Special Collections, J.D. Williams Library, The University of Mississippi

Access Restrictions

The Peter H. Taylor Collection is open for research. **The audiovisual portion of this collection is stored at an off-site facility. Researchers interested in using this part of the collection must contact [Archives and Special Collections](#) at least two business days in advance of their planned visit.**

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Related Material

Resources at the University of Mississippi

McAlexander, Hubert H., *Peter Taylor: A Writer's Life*, Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2001

Separated Material

The following items have been removed from the collection and cataloged:

Books:

- Bishop, John Peale et al, eds. *The Fugitives, The Agrarians and Other Twentieth Century Southern Writers*. Charlottesville: University of Virginia, 1985.
- Casey, John. *Spartina*. New York: Knopf, 1989.
- Casey, John. *Testimony and Demeanor*. New York: Shoreline Books, 1979.
- Griffith, Albert J. *Peter Taylor*. Boston: Twayne Publishers, 1990.
- Netherton, John., ed. *Tennessee: A Homecoming*. Third National Corporation, 1985.
- Robison, James Curry. *Peter Taylor: A Study of the Short Fiction*. Boston: Twayne Publishers, 1988.
- Taylor, Eleanor Ross. *Days Going Days Coming Back*. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1991.
- Taylor, Eleanor Ross. *New and Selected Poems*. Stuart Wright, 1983.
- Taylor, Eleanor Ross. *Welcome Eumenides*. New York: George Braziller, 1972.
- Williamson, Alan. *Eloquence and Mere Life: Essays on the Art of Poetry*. Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press, 1997.
- Wright, Stuart. *Peter Taylor: A Descriptive Biography, 1934-1987*. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1988.

Journals:

- The Chattahoochee Review*, Fall 1985 and Fall 2000
- The Greensboro Review*, Summer 1992, No. 52
- Journal of the Short Story in English*, No. 9, Autumn 1987
- The Kenyon Review, New Series*, Vol. XII, No. 3
- Key West Review*, Fall 1988
- New Virginia Review*, Vol. 9, Number 2
- Shenandoah*, Winter 1977 (2 copies)
- The Southern Quarterly*, Winter 2000
- The Southwestern Journal*, 1939

Arrangement

This collection is arranged roughly in the order in which it was received, which reflects the structure of Hubert H. McAlexander's *Peter Taylor: A Writer's Life*.

[Papers](#)

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- Folder 1.5 Senator Taylor
- Folder 1.6 Watauga and the State of Franklin
- Folder 1.7 Letters – the family dynamic
- Folder 1.8 Taylor Family – West
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- Folder 1.10 The Family
- Folder 1.11 Louise Manly, "The Manly Family: An Account of the Descendants of Capt. Basil Manly"
- Folder 1.12 Chapter One
- Folder 1.13 Rogers Caldwell
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- Folder 2.1 Chapter Two
- Folder 2.2 St. Louis Debut and Veiled Prophet Ball
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- Folder 2.4 Susie Thompson
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- Folder 3.2 ERT – Career, Review
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Folder 16.6 Farrar, Strauss, 1985

Folder 16.7 *A Summons to Memphis* reviews, 1986-1987

Folder 16.8 *A Stand in the Mountains*

Folder 16.9 *A Summons to Memphis* - Updike

Folder 16.10 Receptions of *Summons*

Folder 17.1 American Book Award

Folder 17.2 *Summons* – origins, thoughts

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 Folder 22.7 Copies of Taylor articles in *Shenandoah*
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 Folder 22.10 Card removed from *Peter Taylor* by Albert J. Griffith, note and signed by Albert J. Griffith

Photographs

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Scope: 20 items
 CPB51.F2 Two photos and two negatives, unmarked, from Folder 4.4 (manuscript)
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 CPB51.F3 Photograph of Peter H. Taylor WWII from Folder 8.1 (manuscript)
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 CPB51.F6 Baltimore photos – Yoshiko Kayano from Folder 18.2 (manuscript)
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 CPB51.F7 Peter Taylor Photos from Folder 20.12 (manuscript)
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 CPB51.F9 One negative and one contact sheet from Folder 20.18
Scope: 2 items
 CPB51.F10 Photos from Peter Taylor biography from Folder 22.9
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Cassette Tapes

CPB52

Charles Dean talk on Yellow Fever, 1970
 Marshall County History Society, recorded by Elizabeth G. McAlexander
 Peter Taylor at the Cosmos Club, 9 April 1981
 Peter Taylor – NYC (a.m.), 21 May 1981
 Peter Taylor at the Russian Tea Room
 Gossip mostly about Tate and KAD (separated) no transcript, 21 May 1981

Peter Taylor after [illegible] at the Osborne, 21 May 1981
Peter Taylor at [illegible], 21 May 1981
Peter Taylor Charlottesville Tape 1, 10 December 1981
Peter Taylor Charlottesville Tape 2, 10 December 1981
Peter Taylor Charlottesville Tape 3, 10 December 1981
Interview with Peter Taylor (by Bob Edwards) for National Public Radio, 6 March 1985
Peter Taylor [illegible] Memphis – N.Y.C., 25 March 1982
Peter Taylor [illegible] Apt – 72nd W, 25 March 1982
A Day with Peter Taylor, 20 June 1987
Scope: Bill Broadway's recollections of conversations and moments with Peter Taylor. Dictated in car on the way home to Arlington from Charlottesville. Topics include new novel, depression, Dickey, Warren, American Book Awards, Taylors' houses and many other subjects. Tape copied October 26, 1994.
Jack Thompson, November 1994
Peter Taylor – "All Things Considered," 10 March 1995
"All Things Considered: All Things Considered Comes to Nashville," 1995
Alan Williamson, 10 May 1995
Tommy Mitchell, 18 July 1995
Joan Williams, 19 July 1995
The Fultons, October 1995
McAlexander – English – USA
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Jarrell/Bishop
Chappell
McAlexander, Peter Taylor essay for The Kenyon Review (floppy disc)